



## Fracture strength, failure type and Weibull characteristics of lithium disilicate and multiphase resin composite endocrowns under axial and lateral forces

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**Abstract:** OBJECTIVE Multiphase resin composite materials have been advocated as an alternative to reinforced ceramics but limited information is available to date on their stability. This in vitro study evaluated the effect of axial and lateral forces on the strength of endocrowns made of Li<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and multiphase resin composite. METHODS Sound human molars (N=60, n=10 per group) were randomly divided into 6 groups: Group C: Control, no preparation or restoration; Group LI: Endocrown made of Li<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (IPS e.max CAD) and Group LA: Endocrown made of multiphase resin composite material (Lava Ultimate). After decapitation and endodontic preparation, immediate dentin sealing was performed. Following CAD/CAM fabrication, their cementation surfaces were silica coated (CoJet System) and silanized (ESPE-Sil). Endocrowns were then adhesively cemented (Variolink II). All specimens were thermocycled (×10,000 cycles). While half of the specimens in each group were subjected to axial (C(A), LI(A), LA(A)), the other half was subjected to lateral static (C(L), LI(L), LA(L)) loading (1mm/min). Failure type and location after debonding/fracture were classified. Data were analyzed using ANOVA and Tukey's post hoc test (α=0.05). Two-parameter Weibull distribution values including the Weibull modulus, scale (m) and shape (0), values were calculated. RESULTS Under axial loading, mean fracture strength (N) did not show significant difference between groups: LAA (2675±588)(a), LIA (2428±566)(a), CA (2151±672)(a) (p>0.05) and under lateral loading, LAL (838±169)(A) presented significantly lower mean values than those of other groups: CL (1499±418)(B), LIL (1118±173)(B) (p<0.05). Both endocrown materials and the control group were more vulnerable to lateral loading than axial loading. Under axial loading, Weibull distribution presented higher shape (0) for Groups LIA (5.35) and LAA (5.08) than that of the control (3.97) and under lateral loading LIL (7.5) showed higher shape (0) than those of other groups (4.69-6.46). After axial loading, failure types were mainly cohesive in the material and after lateral loading primarily adhesive between the material and dentin for both LI and LA, most of which were repairable. SIGNIFICANCE Under axial loading, molars restored with endocrowns performed similar with both Li<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and multiphase resin composite but the latter was less durable under lateral loading.

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# Fracture Strength, Failure Type and Weibull Characteristics of Lithiumdisilicate and Multiphase Resin Composite Endocrowns Under Axial and Lateral Forces

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**Short title:** *Durability of endocrowns made of reinforced ceramic and resin composite*

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives.** Multiphase resin composite materials have been advocated as an alternative to reinforced ceramics but limited information is available to date on their stability. This *in vitro* study evaluated the effect of axial and lateral forces on the strength of endocrowns made of  $\text{Li}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$  and multiphase resin composite.

**Methods.** Sound human molars ( $N=60$ ,  $n=10$  per group) were randomly divided into 6 groups: Group C: Control, no preparation or restoration; Group LI: Endocrown made of  $\text{Li}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$  (IPS e.max CAD) and Group LA: Endocrown made of multiphase resin composite material (Lava Ultimate). After decapitation and endodontic preparation, immediate dentin sealing was performed. Following CAD/CAM fabrication, their cementation surfaces were silica coated (CoJet System) and silanized (ESPE-Sil). Endocrowns were then adhesively cemented (Variolink II). All specimens were thermocycled ( $\times 10,000$  cycles). While half of the specimens in each group were subjected to axial ( $C_A$ ,  $LI_A$ ,  $LA_A$ ), the other half was subjected to lateral static ( $C_L$ ,  $LI_L$ ,  $LA_L$ ) loading (1 mm/min). Failure type and location after debonding/fracture were classified. Data were analyzed using ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test ( $\alpha=0.05$ ). Two-parameter Weibull distribution values including the Weibull modulus, scale ( $m$ ) and shape ( $\phi$ ), values were calculated.

**Results.** Under axial loading, mean fracture strength (N) did not show significant difference between groups:  $LA_A$  ( $2675 \pm 588$ )<sup>a</sup>,  $LI_A$  ( $2428 \pm 566$ )<sup>a</sup>,  $C_A$  ( $2151 \pm 672$ )<sup>a</sup> ( $p > 0.05$ ) and under lateral loading,  $LA_L$  ( $838 \pm 169$ )<sup>A</sup> presented significantly lower mean values than those of other groups:  $C_L$  ( $1499 \pm 418$ )<sup>B</sup>,  $LI_L$  ( $1118 \pm 173$ )<sup>B</sup> ( $p < 0.05$ ). Both endocrown materials and the control group were more vulnerable to lateral loading than axial loading. Under axial loading, Weibull distribution presented higher shape ( $\phi$ ) for Groups  $LI_A$  (5.35) and  $LA_A$  (5.08) than that of the control (3.97) and under lateral loading  $LI_L$  (7.5) showed higher shape ( $\phi$ ) than those of other groups (4.69-6.46). After axial loading, failure types were mainly cohesive in the material and after lateral loading primarily adhesive between the material and dentin for both LI and LA, most of which were repairable.

**Significance.** Under axial loading, molars restored with endocrowns performed similar with both  $\text{Li}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$  and multiphase resin composite but the latter was less durable under lateral loading.

**Keywords:** CAD/CAM; Composite; Ceramic; Endocrowns; Endodontics; Hybrid materials; Lithium disilicate

## 1. Introduction

Severe coronal tooth structure loss due to extensive caries or root canal therapy has been typically restored with a post and core retained full coverage crown in reconstructive dentistry. Due to the advances in adhesive technologies and materials almost two decades ago endocrown type of restorations were suggested for posterior teeth as an alternative to post and core retained ones [1]. An endocrown is a monoblock restoration that is cemented to the internal portion of the pulp chamber and to the remaining tooth margins using adhesive luting cement. Hence, their retention to the tooth is achieved through both macro- and micro-mechanical means. Endocrowns restore the anatomy, seal the root canal opening, preventing bacterial recolonization all of which eventually affect the long-term prognosis of a tooth following endodontic treatment [2].

Finite element analysis, mathematical modelling and static loading tests from in vitro studies suggest that molar teeth restored by endocrowns could withstand physiological chewing forces without fracture or debonding [3-5]. They seem to be potentially more resistant to failure than molars restored with glass fiber reinforced composite posts [3-5]. Several authors described the clinical procedure for the fabrication of endocrowns made of modern ceramics in case reports [6-9]. Short-term clinical evaluations present promising results with respect to aesthetics and functional longevity of endocrowns made of glass ceramic with annual failures rate of 0 to 0.2% up to 12 to 35.5 months of follow up [10-12].

Recently, multiphase resin composite materials have been advocated as an alternative to reinforced ceramics since they have more biomimetic properties with similar elasticity modulus closer to tooth structure. Limited information is available to date on their durability but they

presented promising results for occlusal onlays [13]. The present study aims to expand the current knowledge on structural durability of endocrowns.

The objectives of this *in vitro* study therefore were to a) compare the fracture strength of endocrowns made of  $\text{Li}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$  or multiphase resin composite and compare the results with natural teeth under axial and lateral forces, b) evaluate the failure types after testing. The null hypothesis tested was that material type and loading direction would not affect the fracture strength of endocrowns and the results would not differ from those of unrestored natural teeth.

## **2. Material and methods**

### **2.1 Specimen preparation**

The brands, types, main chemical compositions, manufacturers and batch numbers of the materials used for the experiments are listed in Table 1. Schematic description of the experimental design is presented in Fig. 1.

Sound human mandibular molars (N=60, n=10 per group) of similar size and morphology, free of restorations and root canal treatment were selected from a pool of recently extracted teeth that were stored in distilled water. All teeth were screened on the presence of fractures by blue light and those with cracks were eliminated and replaced with new teeth. They were then embedded up to 1 mm below the cement-enamel junction (CEJ) in polyvinylchloride (PVC) tubes (height: 10 mm; diameter: 12 mm) using autopolymerizing acrylic resin (Autoplast, Condular, Wager, Switzerland) and stored in distilled water at 37°C until preparation [14]. The teeth were randomly divided into 3 groups: Group C: Control, no preparation or restoration; Group LI: Endocrown made of  $\text{Li}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$  (IPS e.max CAD, Ivoclar Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein) and Group LA: Endocrown made of multiphase resin composite material (Lava Ultimate, 3M ESPE, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA).

### **2.2 Tooth preparation**

Specimens in Groups LI and LA were scanned (Cerec Omnicam, Sirona, Bensheim, Germany) and the data were stored in the Cerec database (version 3.85, Sirona Dental Systems, Bensheim,

Germany) in order to be able to restore the teeth to their original anatomy after preparation. An impression (Express 3M ESPE, Seefeld, Germany) was made from each tooth to facilitate the fabrication of a provisional restoration after preparation. Subsequently, the teeth were decapitated to a level 1 mm above the CEJ. Access to the root canal was opened with respect to the anatomy of the pulp chamber. Root canals were prepared using manual instrumentation to a depth of 10 mm relative to the margin of the tooth up to size no. 30 file with an average diameter of 0.9 mm (K-flexofile, Dentsply, Milford, USA). Then, the prepared dentin surfaces were sealed with the so-called Immediate Dentin Sealing (IDS) [15]. This procedure involved etching dentin with 38%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  (Ultraetch, Ultradent, St Louis, USA) for 15 seconds, rinsing and subsequent drying for 3 to 4 seconds. A primer (OptiBond FL, Kerr, Orange, USA) was applied for 15 seconds followed by 3 to 5 seconds of suction drying. After that adhesive resin (OptiBond FL, Kerr) was carefully applied onto the surface for 20 seconds, followed by 20 seconds of polymerization using an LED polymerization device (Bluephase, Ivoclar Vivadent) from a distance of 2 mm. The output of the polymerization device was  $1000 \text{ mW/cm}^2$  throughout the experiment (Bluephasemeter, Ivoclar Vivadent). The entrance of the root-canals and undercuts in the pulp chamber were covered with a flowable composite resin (Tetric Flow, Ivoclar Vivadent) followed by 20 seconds of photo-polymerization. After application of glycerin gel (Panavia Oxyguard, Kuraray, Osaka, Japan), the surface was again photo-polymerized for 40 seconds and finally, the gel was rinsed away. The IDS layer was checked for the presence of voids and excess adhesive resin was removed under the microscope (Opmipico, Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany).

The decapitated specimens were scanned again using the Cerec scanner (Cerec Omnicam, Sirona, Bensheim, Germany). Endocrowns were designed and milled (Cerec MC XL, Sirona) according to the original anatomy that was previously stored in the database (Figs. 2a-b). Afterwards, a provisional restoration was made (Protemp 4, 3M ESPE, Seefeld, Germany) and cemented (TempBond, Kerr). The specimens were stored in water for another 2 weeks to simulate the typical clinical situation for the provisional phase of indirect restorations.



### **2.3 Adhesive cementation**

After 2 weeks, the provisional restorations were carefully removed and the fit of the restorations checked with a probe. The cementation surface of the lithium LI restorations were etched for 20 seconds with 4.9% hydrofluoric acid (IPS ceramic etch, Ivoclar Vivadent), followed by 30 seconds of rinsing with water. The restorations were ultrasonically cleaned (Emag, Valkenswaard, The Netherlands) in distilled water for 3 minutes, dried and silane coupling agent was applied (Monobond Plus, Ivoclar Vivadent) that was further activated at 100°C for 60 seconds. Finally, adhesive resin was applied to the surface (Syntac Adhesive, Ivoclar Vivadent) and air thinned.

The cementation surface of LA endocrowns were silica coated (CoJet, 3M, ESPE) using a chairside air-abrasion device (Dento-Prep™, RØNVIG A/S, Daugaard, Denmark) from a distance of 10 mm, angle of 45° and 2 bar pressure until the surface became matt for 5 seconds. Silane coupling agent was applied (ESPE Sil, 3M ESPE) and further activated at 100°C for 60 seconds. Finally, adhesive resin was applied to the surface (Syntac Adhesive, Ivoclar Vivadent) and air thinned.

On the tooth surface the IDS layer was silica coated as described above (CoJet, 3M ESPE). Enamel was etched with 38% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (Ultraetch, Ultradent) for 30 seconds, rinsed and dried for 30 seconds. Silane coupling agent was applied on the IDS layer (ESPE Sil, 3M ESPE), followed by primer (Syntac Primer, Syntac Adhesive, Ivoclar Vivadent) and adhesive resin (Heliobond, Ivoclar Vivadent) application on both the tooth and the restoration surfaces. The dual polymerizing cement (Variolink II, Ivoclar Vivadent) was mixed and distributed on the cementation surface of the restoration. The endocrown was placed on the tooth under standardized occlusal pressure (50 N) using a custom-made device. Excess cement was removed from the margins, an oxygen inhibition gel (Liquid Strip, Ivoclar Vivadent) was applied at the margins and the specimens were photo-

polymerized from occlusal, buccal, lingual, mesial and distal directions for 40 seconds each. Excess cement was removed and margins were finished and polished.

## ***2.4 Aging and fracture test***

All specimens were thermocycled (Willytec, Munich, Germany) for 10.000 times between 5°C and 55°C with a dwell time of 30 seconds in each bath. After aging, digital photos of the specimens were made.

The fracture test was performed in a Universal Testing Machine (MTS 810, Eden Prairie, USA). While half of the specimens were mounted in a metal base and the stainless steel round load cell was applied perpendicular to the occlusal plane, at the central fissure (axial loading), the other half was loaded by means of a v-shaped stainless steel load cell that was placed on the interface between the tooth-endocrown margin interface (lateral loading) (Figs. 3a-b). The maximum force to produce fracture was recorded.

## ***2.5 Failure analysis***

Failure sites were initially observed using a dental microscope (OPMIpico, Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany), and digital photos were made from the specimens. Failure types were classified as follows: Type I: Cohesive failure in the endocrown material; Type II: Adhesive failure between the endocrown material and dentin; Type III: Cohesive failure in enamel/dentin; Type VI: Fracture extending to root. Failures above CEJ were considered as “Repairable” and those below Cemento Enamel Junction (CEJ) extending the root were classified as “irrepairable”.

## ***2.6 Statistical analysis***

Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests were used to test normal distribution of the data. As the data (N) were normally distributed, 2-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) were applied to analyse possible differences between the groups using a statistical software programme (SPSS,

PASW statistics 18.0.3, Chicago, USA). Due to significant difference ( $p=0.000$ ), Tukey's post hoc test was applied to compare the significant differences between groups where the fracture strength (N) was the dependent variable and endocrown materials (2 levels: LI and LA) and force direction (2 levels; axial and lateral). Maximum likelihood estimation without a correction factor was used for 2-parameter Weibull distribution, including the Weibull modulus, scale ( $m$ ) and shape ( $\sigma$ ), to interpret predictability and reliability of endocrown materials (Minitab Software V.16, State College, PA, USA).  $P < 0.05$  was considered to be statistically significant in all tests.

### 3. Results

Under axial loading, mean fracture strength (N) did not show significant difference between groups: LA<sub>A</sub> ( $2675 \pm 588$ )<sup>a</sup>, LI<sub>A</sub> ( $2428 \pm 566$ )<sup>a</sup>, C<sub>A</sub> ( $2151 \pm 672$ )<sup>a</sup> ( $p > 0.05$ ) and under lateral loading, LA<sub>L</sub> ( $838 \pm 169$ )<sup>A</sup> presented significantly lower mean values than those of other groups: C<sub>L</sub> ( $1499 \pm 418$ )<sup>B</sup>, LI<sub>L</sub> ( $1118 \pm 173$ )<sup>B</sup> ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 2). Both endocrown materials and the control group were more vulnerable to lateral loading than axial loading.

Under axial loading, Weibull distribution presented higher shape ( $\sigma$ ) for Groups LI<sub>A</sub> (5.35) and LA<sub>A</sub> (5.08) than that of the control (3.97) and under lateral loading LI<sub>L</sub> (7.5) showed higher shape ( $\sigma$ ) than those of other groups (4.69-6.46) (Figs. 4a-b).

After axial loading, failure types were mainly cohesive in the material and after lateral loading primarily adhesive between the material and dentin for both LI and LA (Fig. 5). Irrespective of the groups the majority of the specimens were considered repairable (Fig. 6).

### 4. Discussion

This study was undertaken in order to compare the fracture strength of endocrowns made of either glassy matrix or resin composite materials to natural teeth under clinically relevant direction of forces, namely axial and lateral forces. Based on the results of this study, since material type did not show significant difference in terms of fracture strength under axial forces but under lateral forces,

the first hypothesis could be partially accepted. On the other hand, since lateral forces decreased the fracture strength for all groups significantly compared to axial forces, the second hypothesis could be rejected.

Molar teeth with extensive loss of coronal tooth structure have traditionally been restored by means of a cast metal or fiberglass reinforced composite post and crown. Concerns regarding such a procedure include the risk of root perforation and the need for removal of sound tissue in the root canal to facilitate the room for the post material, thus weakening the tooth-root complex. Moreover, the benefit of a post in the root canal for the overall retention of the successive reconstruction in general is being questioned in recent years [16]. Clinical results from long-term studies up to 17 years with crowns cemented on composite core build-ups have failed to demonstrate the merits of a metal post on the tooth survival in the presence of adequate ferrule effect [17,18]. The introduction and application of fibre reinforced composite posts has not changed the view on the subject. The amount of remaining ferrule seems to be the predominant factor for tooth survival in extensively structurally compromised non-vital teeth [19,20]. Compared to other indirect restorative alternatives that may require root canal therapy, provision of an endocrown is a relatively easy, cost-effective procedure that requires less chairside time. In addition, supragingival margins facilitate plaque control and clinical inspection.

The results from the present *in vitro* study emphasize the potential of endocrowns made of either LI or LA materials to withstand considerable compressive loads that were similar to unrestored controls. The results obtained in this study were within the same range as occlusal veneers made from the same materials in another study [13]. The observed values at time of fracture under axial loading were well above the mean masticatory forces in humans ranging from approximately 600 to 900 N for females and males, respectively [21-23]. Axial loading may represent occlusal forces where elasticity modulus and thickness of the restorative material may be decisive for survival of a restorative material but in reality such forces are always accompanied with lateral forces during chewing function. In that respect, lateral loading and the consequent durability

of endocrowns encompass not only inherent characteristics of the material but also the durability under shear stresses. Little is known about the magnitude of forces to the jaw or teeth from lateral direction during oral function in human but from a theoretical and validated model it is assumed that solely lateral forces lie in the order of 200 N [24,25], hence, considerably lower than the failure loads obtained in the present study. Yet, with the LA material the results were significantly lower than the LI. This could be attributed to inferior adhesion of the resin composite to the highly polymerized LA material that could be also confirmed by the adhesive failures. Although cementation surfaces of LA material were previously conditioned with tribochemical silica coating, obviously the obtained results did not surpass that of physico-chemical conditioning with LI material. Weibull parameters support this assumption in that LI (7.5) delivered the higher values than that of LA (6.46). However, under axial loading this difference between LI (5.35) and LA (5.08) was less. Nevertheless, cohesive failure types in the material after axial loading could be repaired using resin composites after appropriate conditioning of the LI or LA material [26,27]. On the other hand, debonded restorations experienced after lateral could be recemented using resin cements again after surface conditioning. Yet, clinical longevity of such repaired or recemented restorations is unknown but one can anticipate that torque forces in a recementation situation may be more susceptible than to repairs on the material.

One aspect that deserves discussion in this study is the use of natural teeth as control group. Preclinical and clinical survival of materials is important since the ultimate goal is to apply materials that survive as long as the natural teeth. However, the gradient and anisotropic nature of teeth could not be directly compared with those of the artificial materials tested. Thus, interpretations for comparisons with the natural tooth should be made with caution. Nonetheless, similar trends were observed when the load type was considered, namely lateral forces created more damage in the control group similar to other materials tested. In this study, periodontal ligament was not simulated because artificial films usually used for this purpose show degradation. This would then result in displacement of the tooth during testing. Previous studies even showed that periodontal ligament

simulation could change the fracture strength results and failure modes in a positive way in that the ligament could serve as a shock absorber [28,29]. In previous studies while some did not fill the canal [30], others did fill the canals with endodontic filling materials [3,6,16]. Although filling the canal may be considered clinically more relevant, in this study, in order to find out the material strength and their adhesion to the tooth solely, this factor was not considered. However, lack of adequate adhesion of resin cements to canal filling materials may induce cracks and debonding at the cementation interface that needs further investigation.

Aging with thermocycling has been a matter of debate in the dental literature. While some authors found no significant effect on adhesion [31,32], others did [33,34]. Its effect on bond strength is contradictory and seems to depend on the number of cycles [35,36], size of the specimens [36,37] and the C-factor [38,39]. Thus, the clinical relevancy of such aging methods has to be correlated with clinical studies in the future.

Future studies should also focus on performance of the tested materials for endocrowns under dynamic loading both axially and laterally before prospective clinical studies are commenced.

## **5. Conclusions**

From this study, the following could be concluded:

1. Under axial loading, both  $\text{Li}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$  and multiphase resin composite used as endocrown material presented similar fracture strength but under lateral forces the latter exhibited significantly lower results.

2. Considering Weibull parameters, characteristics of adhesion and thereby interfacial strength seems to be more reliable with  $\text{Li}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$  under both axial and lateral loading than multiphase resin composite for endocrown indication.

3. After axial loading, failure types were mainly cohesive in the material and after lateral loading primarily adhesive between the material and dentin for both materials tested, providing that most of the failures were repairable.

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### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors of this article certify that they have no proprietary, financial, or other personal interest of any nature or kind in any product, service, and/or company that is presented in this article.

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#### **Captions to tables and figures:**

##### **Tables:**

**Table 1.** The brands, types, chemical compositions, manufacturers and batch numbers of the materials used for the experiments. bis-GMA: Bisphenol A glycol dimethacrylate; TEGDMA: Triethylene glycol dimethacrylate; bis-EMA: Ethoxylated bisphenol A glycol dimethacrylate; UDMA: Urethane dimethacrylate; HEMA: Hydroxyethyl methacrylate; MMA: Methylmethacrylate; PMMA: Polymethylmethacrylate; GPDM; Glycerolphosphate dimethacrylate; PAMM: phthalic acid monoethyl methacrylate.

**Table 2.** Fracture strength results (Mean  $\pm$  standard deviation) (Newton) of experimental groups after axial and lateral loading, minimum, maximum and Confidence Intervals (95%). Same lower-case letters in each column indicate no significant differences ( $p>0.05$ ). For group descriptions see Fig. 1.

**Figures:**

**Fig. 1.** Flow-chart showing experimental sequence and allocation of groups.

**Figs. 2a-b.** **a)** Design of endocrown using the Cerec database (version 3.85, Sirona Dental Systems) to be able to restore the teeth to their original anatomy (Mean mesio-distal length: 10.2 mm, Bucco-palatinal length: 10. 2mm) after preparation, **b)** endocrown after milling (Crown height from fissure to wall preparation outline: 2.5 mm; Endocrown depth from preparation outline to the immediate dentin sealing: 2.3 mm).

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**Fig. 5** Frequencies of failure modes in percentages. Type I: Cohesive failure in the endocrown material; Type II: Adhesive failure between the endocrown material and dentin; Type III: Cohesive failure in enamel/dentin; Type VI: Fracture extending to root.

**Fig. 6** Frequencies of repairable (above CEJ) and irreparable (root fractures below CEJ) failures after axial or lateral loading.

Tables:

Brand	Type	Chemical Composition	Manufacturer	Batch Number
Ultraetch	Etching agent	38% H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	Ultradent, St Louis, USA	1303
OptiBond F	Adhesive resin	Primer: HEMA, GPDM, PAMM, ethanol, water, photo-initiator Adhesive: TEGDMA, UDMA, GPDM, HEMA, bis-GMA, filler, photo-initiator	Kerr, Orange, CA, USA	4706 4704
ESPE-Sil	Silane coupling agent	Ethyl alcohol, methacryloxypropyl, trimethoxysilane	3M ESPE, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA	4980
IPS Empress etching gel	Ceramic etching	<5% Hydrofluoric acid	Ivoclar Vivadent	S203
CoJet-Sand	Blasting particles	Aluminium trioxide particles coated with silica, particle size: 30 µm	3M ESPE	5066
Monobond Plus	One component primer	Ethanol, 3-trimethoxysilylpropylmethacrylate, methacrylated phosphoric acid ester	Ivoclar Vivadent	S147
Syntac Primer	Primer	Water, acetone, maleic acid, dimethacrylate	Ivoclar Vivadent	S120
Syntac Adhesive	Adhesive resin	Water, glutaraldehyde, maleic acid, poly-ethyleneglycol-dimethacrylate	Ivoclar Vivadent	S158
Heliobond	Adhesive resin	bis-GMA, dimethacrylate, initiators and stabilizers	Ivoclar Vivadent	S098
Tetric Flow	Photo-polymerizable flowable resin	bis-GMA, UDMA, Ethoxylated bis-EMA, 16.8 % Barium glass filler, Ytterbium trifluoride, Mixed oxide 48.5%, Prepolymers 34%, Additives 0.4% Catalysts and Stabilizers 0.3% Pigments <0.1%	Ivoclar Vivadent	S083
IPS e.max CAD	Lithium disilicate Glass Ceramic	97% SiO <sub>2</sub> , Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> , K <sub>2</sub> O, Na <sub>2</sub> O, CaO, F, 3% TiO <sub>2</sub> , and pigments, water, alcohol, chloride	Ivoclar Vivadent	S041
Lava Ultimate	Multiphase resin CAD/CAM material	Polymerized dental restorative consisting of silica nanomers (20 nm), zirconia nanomers (4-11 nm), nanocluster particles derived from silica nanomers (0.6-10 µm), silane coupling agent, resin matrix	3M ESPE	N357 1 N333 9

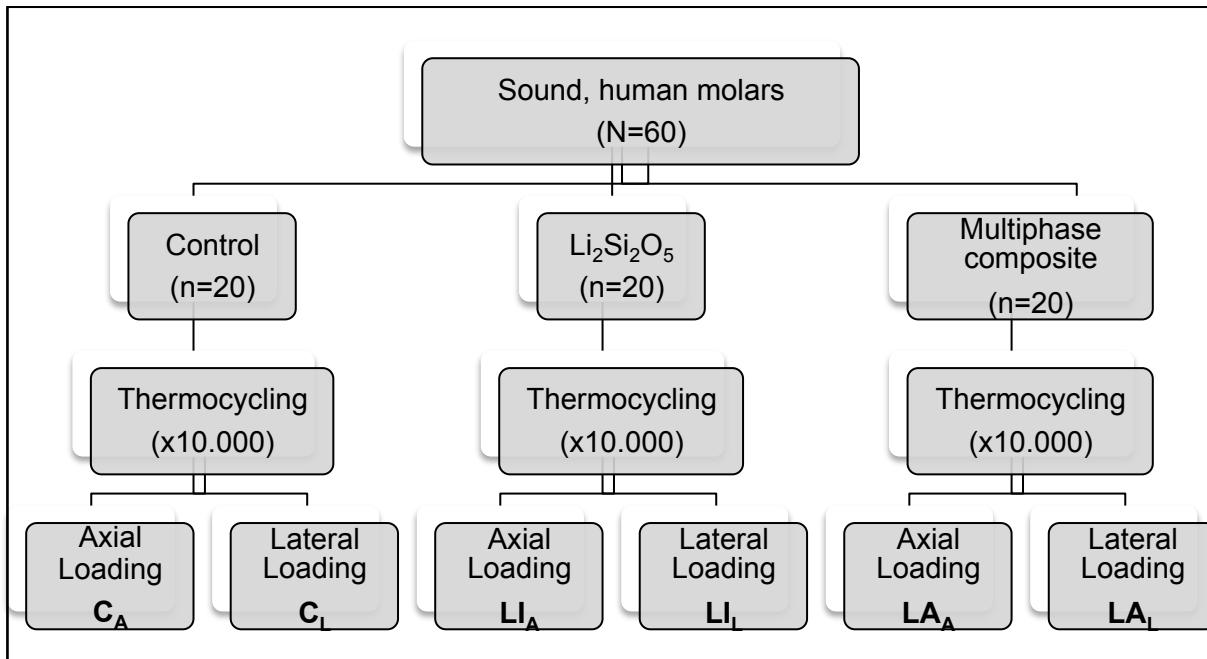
<b>Variolink II</b>	Dual polymerized resin cement	UDMA, inorganic fillers, ytterbium trifluoride, initiators, stabilizers, pigments	Ivoclar Vivadent	S090 S026
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Experiment Groups	n	Mean (SD)	Minimum	Maximum	Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
<b>Axial Loading</b>						
<b>C<sub>A</sub></b>	10	2151±67	661	3100	1724.3	2578.7
<b>LI<sub>A</sub></b>	10	2428±56	1402	3233	2068.2	2788.8
<b>LA<sub>A</sub></b>	10	2675±58	1808	3805	2301.5	3048.5
<b>Lateral Load</b>						
<b>C<sub>L</sub></b>	10	1499±41 C,a	800	1980	1199.6	1798.4
<b>LI<sub>L</sub></b>	10	1118±17 C,b	862	1370	993.6	1241.4
<b>LA<sub>L</sub></b>	10	838±169	563	1030	717.3	958.7

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**Figures:**

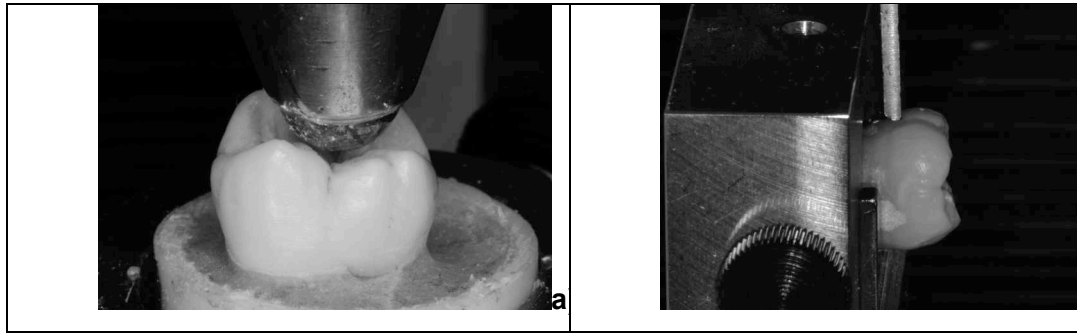


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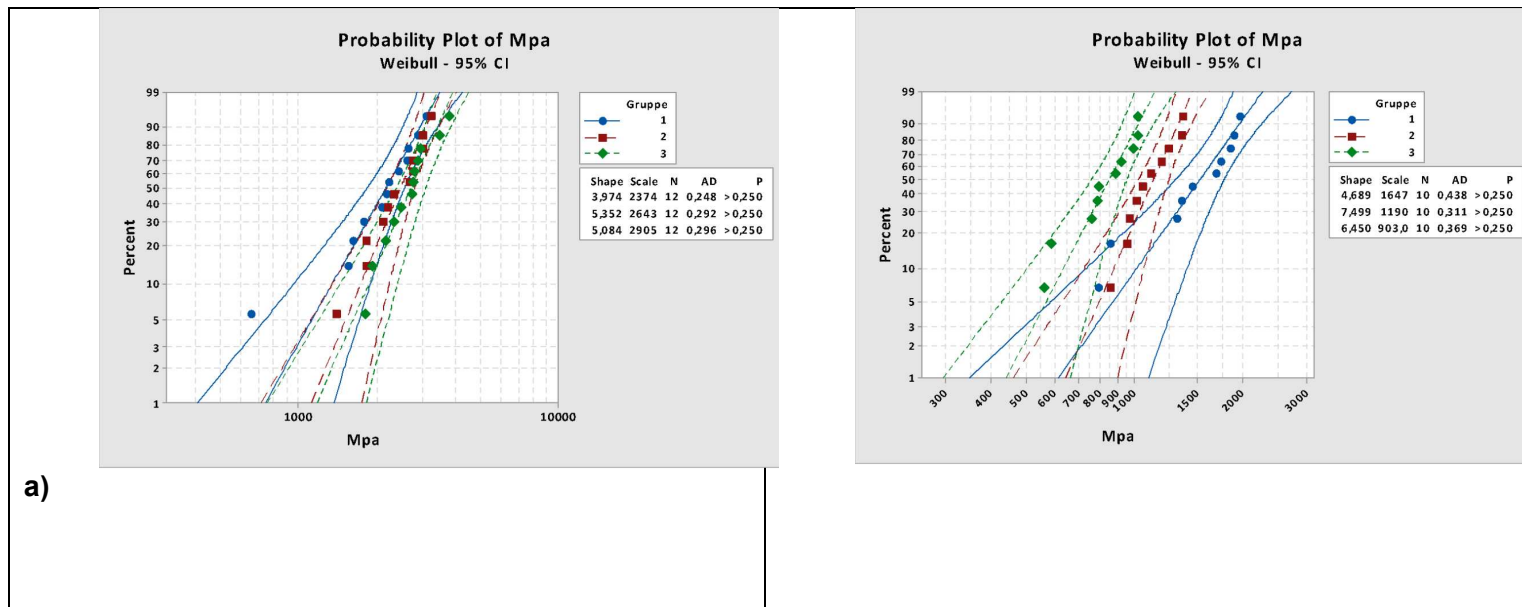


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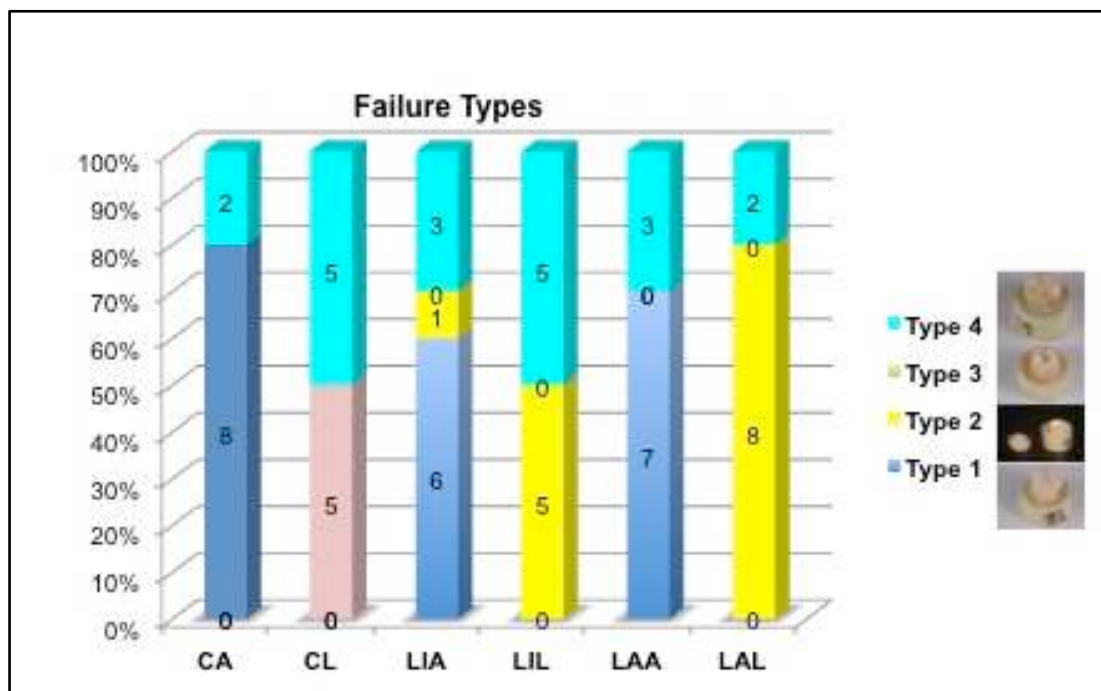




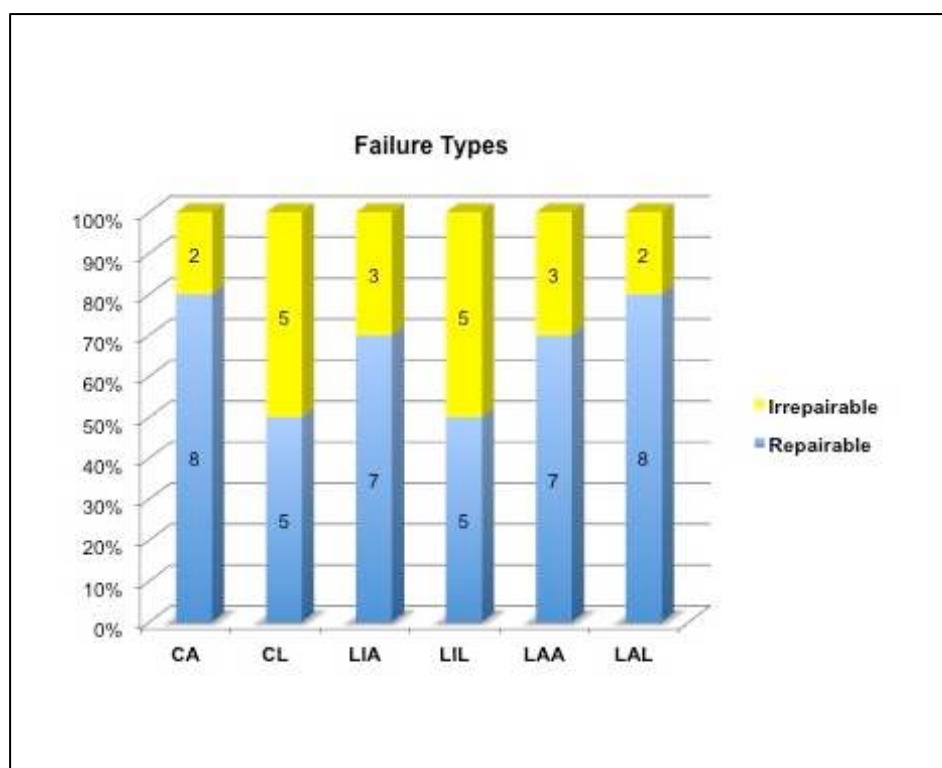
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